

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13884

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON MBFR FIRM, BUT NOT UNBENDING

1. GROMYKO'S STATEMENT IN HIS UN SPEECH THAT THE SOVIET UNION

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WILL "IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY PROMOTE THE SUCCESS" OF THE MBFR

NEGOTIATIONS IS EVIDENTLY DESTINED TO BE MOSCOW'S CATCH PHRASE IN COMMENTARY ON THE VIENNA TALKS. THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF HIS TALKS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT IN PRAGUE USES ALMOST IDENTICAL LANGUAGE, PROMISING THAT THE USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL "IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY PROMOTE THE FINDING OF PATHS TO AGREEMENT IN VIENNA" (PRAVDA SEPT 29). AND PRAVDA'S AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW ON SEPT 28 REPEATS GROMYKO'S PHRASE TO THE WORD, ADDING ONLY THAT PROGRESS IN THE TALKS WOULD BE A "SUBSTANTIAL MOVE FORWARD" IN ADDING CONTENT TO THE DETENTE RELATIONSHIP. (NEEDLESS TO SAY, ALL OF THE ABOVE ALSO CAUTION THAT THE TALKS MUST PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF NO DIMINUTION OF SECURITY OF ANY SIDE.)

2. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMENTARY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MBFR TALKS CONTINES TO STAKE OUT A FIRM--THOUGH APPARENTLY NOT UNBENDABLE--LINE. THE MILITARY DAILY KRASNAYA ZVEZDA IN A SEPT 28 COMMENTARY BY V. GONCHAROV, WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS A TASS OBSERVER, LAMBASTS LUNS FOR HIS COPENHAGEN SPEECH ALLEGEDLY CALLING FOR THE PACT TO AGREE TO NATO TERMS IN MBFR AS A TEST OF "THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI." GONCHAROV DECLARES THAT IT IS A "KNOWN FACT" THAT PROGRESS HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS IN VIENNA BECAUSE OF NATO'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL SECURITY. GONCHAROV CONTINUES THAT THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI IN REALITY WOULD HAVE THE TWO SIDES "CONSTANTLY MOVING TO MEET EACH OTHER, SO THAT AGREEMENTS... WERE REACHED NOT BY FORCING THE VIEWS OF SOME PARTICIPANTS ON OTHERS, BUT RATHER ON THE BASIS OF TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE OPINIONS AND INTERESTS OF ALL AND THROUGH GENERAL AGREEMENT." GONCHAROV CONTINUES THAT "THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE" HOPE THAT NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA WILL PROCEED IN THAT SAME MANNER TOWARD CONSTRUCTIVE UNDERSTANDINGS.

3. COMMENT: GONCHAROV'S COMMENTARY INTRIGUES US BECAUSE (1) IT APPEARS IN THE MOD'S KRANSNAYA ZVEZDA, WHICH HAS HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT MBFR IN THE PAST; AND (2), THOUGH IT IS SHARPLY POLEMICAL ABOUT ALLEGED LACK OF NATO INTEREST IN ARRIVING AT AN AGREEMENT, IT IMPLIES IN EXCERPTS QUOTED ABOVE THAT THE WARSAW PACT IS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN THE GIVE AND TAKE NECESSARY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.

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